



# Ames Heritage Association

## The Ames Intelligencer

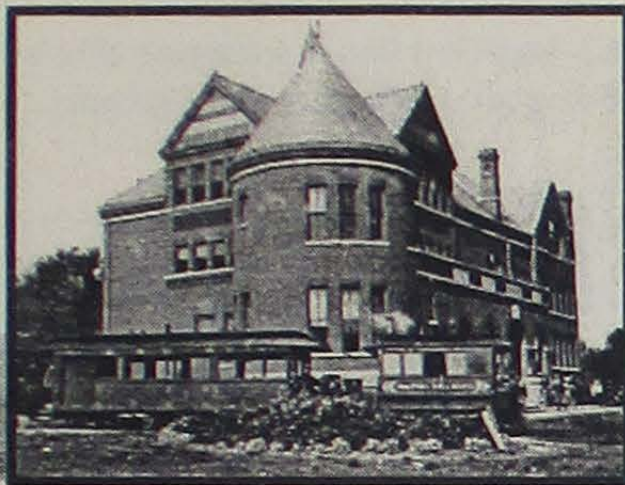
Issue 2 of 4

■ Newsletter for A.H.A. Members ■

Spring 2003

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

### Upcoming Special Events & Programs



#### Update on Morrill Hall: A New Learning Center to Honor our Heritage and Inspire the Future Saturday, March 29, 11am - you're invited!

**Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library**

What are the plans for the renovated Morrill Hall? Come and hear the exciting ideas for Morrill Hall's reincarnation as a teaching and museum facility. View a pictorial exhibit and short video presented by Tanya Zanish Belcher, head of ISU's Special Collections, and have a chance for questions. This information session is free and open to the public.

#### Tour Hallett's Photo Exhibit & Enjoy a Hallett's History Talk

**Sunday, May, 18, 2 to 4pm, Story County  
Conservation Center, McFarland Park**

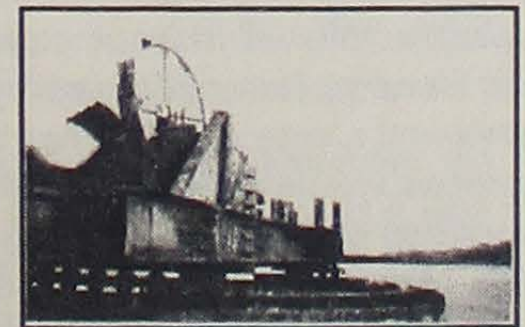


Photographer Janet Jepeway will guide viewers through her photo exhibit, *Hallett's Quarry*. She will discuss individual photos, relate what lead her to photograph the quarry and

what it was like to work in all seasons. She'll share her favorite equipment artifacts and experiences, such as the "teen-age necking party".

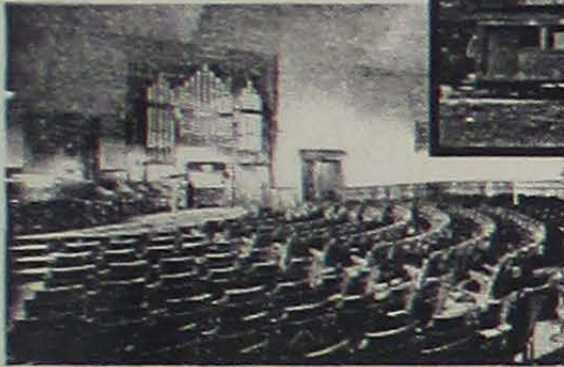
Dennis Wendell, AHA Board Member, will present a history program on Hallett's Quarry - *Hunting, Farming, Quarrying: 2000 Years of Human Activity at Hallett's*

*Quarry*. He will discuss prehistoric human evidence, then concentrate on mid-1800's Euro-American settlement and the later gravel pit operation.



For more information on the April 25 and May 18 programs, contact Story County Conservation at 515-232-2516. The Conservation Center is located at 56461 180th St., north and east of Ames off Dayton Road.

Co-sponsored by Story County Conservation Partners.



#### Hallett's Photo Exhibit & Ada Hayden Lecture

**Friday, April 25, 7pm,  
Story County  
Conservation Center,  
McFarland Park**



Join Ames photographer, Janet Jepeway, for the opening of her photography exhibit, *Hallett's Quarry*, and stay for a talk by Deb Lewis, Curator of the ISU Herbarium, titled, *Ada Hayden, Champion of Iowa Prairies*.

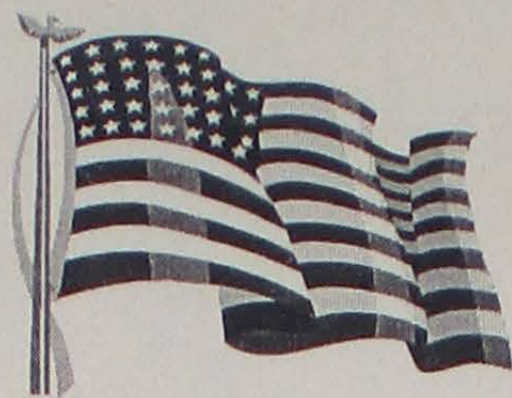
Janet Jepeway has been photographing Hallett's Quarry (now re-named Ada Hayden Heritage Park) since its purchase over a year ago by the City of Ames. She has taken 1,000 pictures and slides and spent 200 hours at the quarry to document its appearance before restoration. Photographs in the exhibit are for sale and profits will be donated to quarry restoration.

Deb Lewis will provide an overview of Ada Hayden's remarkable life, her scientific achievements and contributions to Iowa State and the cause of conservation in Iowa and her role in starting Iowa's state preserve system.

Co-sponsored by Story County Conservation Partners, Outdoor Lighting Assoc., Access Direct and Royce Bitzer.



## Launching Oral History Project:



### Ames Remembers World War II

The Ames Heritage Association is launching a major oral history project called AMES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II to record and share the World War II recollections of people who lived in Ames during the war years.



If you were a child, a student in high school or college, a homemaker, working in a store or office, working at an ordnance plant, or left Ames to serve in the armed forces, your memories of the World War II era in Ames are special and important. They are part of the story of a time and a community.

America is once again facing a climate of war and the vulnerability of its shores. Now, more than ever, the stories and memories of people who lived through the Second World War have lessons to teach about patriotism, living through hard times, and working toward peace. Everyday, we lose valuable firsthand accounts as people who remember that time pass away and take their memories with them.

We hope to interview as many interested Ames residents as possible. We will make an audio tape recording for the Ames Heritage Association, and also give each person interviewed a copy of his or her taped interview to keep. Interviews will be conducted at the Ames Heritage Association office, or an alternate location if preferred. These interviews will then be compiled in a book published by the Ames Heritage Association and available for purchase.

(Photos from F.T. Brown Photo Archives, Ames Public Library)

Please clip and send this sheet to Ames Heritage Association, PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.

If you have questions, contact Cynthia D. Bennet, AHA's Community Programs Coordinator at 515-268-0356.

☐ Yes, I'm interested in being interviewed for the "AMES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II" Project.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Year you were born \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_

☐ And/Or I know someone else who might be interested in being interviewed for the project.

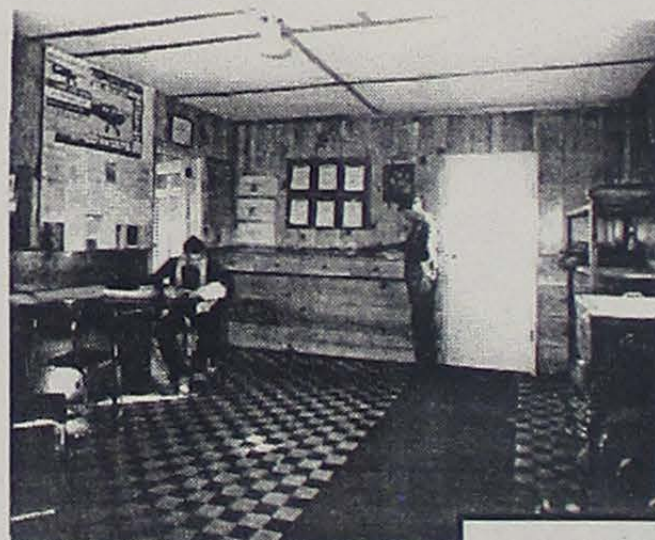
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_

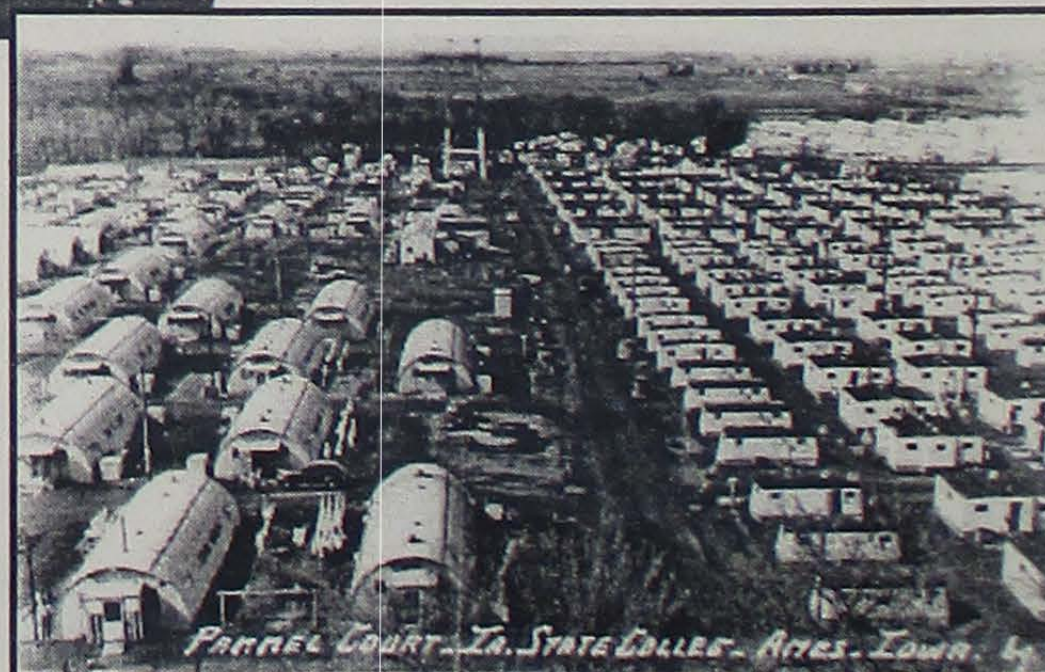
Please consider being interviewed for this important project. If you have wondered what you can do for your community at this time in your life, and this time in America's history, this is one answer. Share your experiences so that others may learn and benefit!



Above left: One of Collegiate Manufacturing Company's sewing rooms during World War II, when it was a major producer of raincoats for the U.S. Armed Services.

Left: The student classroom from the Civilian Flight Training Program (after Dec. 7, 1941, called War Training Service Program) at the east 13th St. flying field on October 23, 1941. (Photo courtesy of Earl Howard.)

Below: Pammel Court student housing on the campus of Iowa State College viewed from south of Pammel Drive soon after World War II.





# "Jumping" Saturday Nights on Main Street in the 30s and 40s

By Barbara Egemo, Ames

Saturday night was family night in downtown Ames in 30s and 40s. It was really jumping. The sidewalks were crowded with people shopping and visiting. It was like a big social carnival. Everyone in town and the farmers from the surrounding area drove to downtown Ames on Saturday nights from 6 or so until the stores closed.

If you came later than 7pm you couldn't get a parking space. If you sat in your car, you visited with all the people you knew who came by. They'd stop beside your car and exchange the latest news.



Main Street, 1947

Or if you got tired of sitting, you'd walk up Main Street, do your errands, and talk to everyone you knew who was shopping or sitting in their cars with the family, watching everyone else who was milling around... dogs and kids and old people and all ages.

You couldn't walk very fast because it was solid people. If you made the rounds of Main Street, up one side and down the other it would take about an hour.

I went downtown last Monday night [this was written in 1992] and parked in front of the [Frame Shop]. Maybe a dozen people walked past in the 2 hours I sat there. Back in that former time zone, there were at least a dozen people just standing in front of the car and the town was one-tenth the size it is now. This, of course, was mainly in summer, though Christmas was a busy time too.

Another busy place in summer was the A & W Root Beer stand (first green and later orange) and Moore's Dairy, which along with the theater, boasted the only air conditioning units in town. Of course when you're small, your sensations are more acute, but I can remember thinking they were both as freezing as the ice cream.

Another difference between that time and now was Church. On Sundays at 11 a.m., the church was always filled. The hotter it was in summer, the more people would be packed in, clear up to the balcony. The ladies fanned themselves and whatever kid was sitting next to them with their church program or hat or something else suitable. The men took off their suit coats and suffered in silence, and the

kids just sat in the pews, sweating until their legs stuck to the seats.

There was as little emphasis on sex as possible. I can remember asking my mother what the word meant after I had learned to read. And later, when sex education was introduced in Junior High School, we actually learned something.

In July when school finally let out in New York City, my Aunt and her three daughters would come and visit us until September when school started up again. Our tiny four-room house was really bulging at the seams. But my Mom, a veritable dynamo of energy, made sleeping arrangements on our back porch and wherever else she could.

They would come on the Chicago and Northwestern train, and in those days the Ames depot had a tunnel. Meeting the trains from the West, one merely stepped outside the depot. But to meet a train from the East, one went through the tunnel, coming out on the other side of the tracks – a necessity with all the trains coming and going. And going through that tunnel amidst all the train noise, was, to a small child, the greatest excitement of the whole summer.

Our relatives, after that long trip, would emerge from the train with hatboxes and luggage like the queen of Sheba and

entourage. My Aunt had studied Opera in New York City, and her stage presence was not to be sneezed at by anyone, let alone a small hick from the Midwest!



Main Street, 1939

Ames really is a beautiful town—the Campus and Mall and Downtown with all its trees and the [in 1992] horse clopping up and down Main Street on Monday nights pulling a wagon of shoppers. I guess the difference between then and now is there was more emphasis on people in the 30's, and very little attention given to things and how they looked. The more people you touched the happier you were. In some ways, people didn't seem to care as much what they wore or what they said. In other ways there was more emphasis on traditions and formalities, and less casual living. But our little car was often jammed with people when we went on a jaunt somewhere. If not the four of us, my parents would fill it with whoever was available.

Of course, people, me especially, tend to remember the good things. That's why it's such fun to reminisce if you have the time and inclination.

(photos —F.T. Brown Photo Archive, Ames Public Library)

**Museum Open House during  
ArtWalk on May 30, 5-9pm  
Join us at 108 Fifth Street!**



## Hoggatt School Open for the Season Starting April 1



AHA's school museum rings its bell and opens its door on April 1.

The school house will be available to groups for pre-arranged visits, April 1- Oct. 31. Regular public open hours on

Saturdays and Sundays from 2 - 4:30pm will begin on June 7 and continue through August 31.

Hoggatt School makes a great activity for scout or church groups, and is a fun destination for families or grandparent outings. What was school like in 1862? Come to Hoggatt School to find out!

Volunteer assistance will be needed for a few hours the last week in March to ready the school for its season. Training for new school hosts is offered to those who would enjoy learning about early education and relating stories to visitors. Call Carole Jensen, 233-2404 to volunteer or arrange a tour.

## Bauge Log Home Opens 2003 Season on May 4 during Festival

Heritage-theme activities will be featured at McFarland Park's Partners Festival on May 4 and the Bauge log home will be open for visitors. Join log home tour guides for stories about Norwegian immigrant family life and farming in early Story County. The event runs from 2-5pm. After May 4, the log home will be open Sunday afternoons, 1 to 4 p.m., until September 28.

In late April, volunteers are needed to clean the house for the open season and move furniture. Training sessions for new and returning docents will also be scheduled for late April. Those interested in helping with the workday or becoming a docent can call Willie Struss at 232-0865. *"Many hands make light work."*

Ames Heritage Association Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary - Letitia Hansen; Treasurer - Peggy Baer; Jorgen Rasmussen, Lynn Jenison, Margaret Elbert Benson, Catherine Hunt, Janet Jepeway, Leo Lawler, Micki Nelson, Dennis Wendell. The Board meets the second Monday of each month.

Ames Heritage Association is an incorporated, 501C3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and exhibitions and the operation of two historic sites. Headquarters: 108 5th, Ames; Phone: 515-232-2148, amesheritage@qwest.net.

The Intelligencer newsletter is published four times a year for AHA members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Bauge Log Home is east & north McFarland Park's lake. The park is 1/2 mile east of Dayton Rd at 56461 180th Street. Open Sundays during good weather months.

Please Renew if you haven't  
Your label tells when  
you last renewed,  
and at what level.

The Ames Intelligencer  
Ames Heritage Association  
PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Non Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #122  
Ames, Iowa 50010